

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method for forwarding an incoming telephone call from a first number to a second number, said method comprising:

receiving said incoming telephone call by a processing system;

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sending a message to a user device for routing information regarding said incoming telephone call;

receiving routing information from said user device

- 15 responsive to said message; and

transferring said incoming telephone call in accordance with said routing information.

- 20 2. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said routing information includes said second number, whereby said incoming telephone call is thereafter transferred to said second number.

- 25 3. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein after said receiving, said method further includes accessing processing information, said processing information including an access method for said user device.

- 30 4. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said user device is a wireless device.

5. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said user device includes input means for enabling said user to input information, said information including said second number.

5 6. The method as set forth in claim 4 wherein said wireless device is a cell phone.

7. The method as set forth in claim 4 wherein said wireless device is a two-way pager device.

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8. The method as set forth in claim 4 wherein said wireless device is a computing device.

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9. The method as set forth in claim 4 wherein said wireless device is a laptop computer.

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10. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said processing information includes information determinative of whether said sending occurs or whether said incoming telephone call is transferred to a default processing system without said sending of said message to said user device.

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11. The method as set forth in claim 10 wherein said default processing system is a voice mail processing system.

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12. The method as set forth in claim 1 and further including playing a recorded message to a caller of said incoming telephone call for at least a portion of time during said sending.

13. The method as set forth in claim 1 and further including transferring said incoming telephone call to a voice mail processing system if said routing information is not received within a predetermined period of time after said  
5 sending.

14. The method as set forth in claim 1 and further including determining if said routing information includes a valid second number prior to said transferring.

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15. The method as set forth in claim 14 and further including transferring said incoming telephone call to a voice mail processing system if said routing information does not include a valid second number.

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16. A storage medium including machine readable coded indicia, said storage medium being selectively coupled through a reading device to processing circuitry within a computing system, said reading device being selectively  
20 operable to read said machine readable coded indicia and provide program signals representative thereof, said program signals being effective to enable a forwarding of an incoming telephone call from a first number to a second number, said program signals being selectively operable for  
25 effecting steps of:

receiving said incoming telephone call by a processing system;

30 sending a message to a user device for routing information regarding said incoming telephone call;

receiving routing information from said user device  
responsive to said message; and

transferring said incoming telephone call in accordance with  
5 said routing information.

17 ~~16~~. The medium as set forth in claim 15 wherein said routing  
information includes said second number, whereby said  
incoming telephone call is thereafter transferred to said  
10 second number.

18 ~~17~~. The medium as set forth in claim 15 wherein after said  
receiving, said steps further include accessing processing  
information, said processing information including an access  
15 method for said user device.

19 ~~18~~. The medium as set forth in claim 15 wherein said user  
device is a wireless device.

20 ~~20~~ ~~19~~. The medium as set forth in claim 15 wherein said user  
device includes input means for enabling said user to input  
information, said information including said second number.

21 ~~20~~. The medium as set forth in claim 18 wherein said  
25 wireless device is a cell phone.

22 ~~21~~. The medium as set forth in claim 18 wherein said  
wireless device is a two-way pager device.

30 ~~23~~ ~~22~~. The medium as set forth in claim 18 wherein said  
wireless device is a computing device.

21 23. The medium as set forth in claim 18 wherein said  
wireless device is a laptop computer.

25 24. The medium as set forth in claim 15 wherein said  
5 processing information includes information determinative of  
whether said sending occurs or whether said incoming  
telephone call is transferred to a default processing system  
without said sending of said message to said user device.

10 26 25. The medium as set forth in claim 24 wherein said default  
processing system is a voice mail processing system.

27 26. The medium as set forth in claim 15 wherein said steps  
further include playing a recorded message to a caller of  
15 said incoming telephone call for at least a portion of time  
during said sending.

28 27. The medium as set forth in claim 15 wherein said steps  
further include transferring said incoming telephone call to  
20 a voice mail processing system if said routing information  
is not received within a predetermined period of time after  
said sending.

29 28. The medium as set forth in claim 1 wherein said steps  
25 further include determining if said routing information  
includes a valid second number prior to said transferring.

30 29. The medium as set forth in claim 28 wherein said steps  
further include transferring said incoming telephone call to  
a voice mail processing system if said routing information  
does not include a valid second number.

31 30. A processing system including a system bus, and a  
processor, a memory system, and a network interface, all  
coupled to said system bus, said processing system being  
operable for forwarding an incoming telephone call from a  
5 first number to a second number, said processing system  
being arranged for receiving said incoming telephone call  
and sending a message to a user device for routing  
information regarding said incoming telephone call, said  
processing system being further operable for receiving  
10 routing information from said user device responsive to said  
message, and transferring said incoming telephone call in  
accordance with said routing information.